



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

Office of Emergency Medical Services

2 Boylston Street, 3rd Floor

Boston, MA 02116

(617) 753-7300

Fax: (617) 753-7320

MITT ROMNEY
GOVERNOR

KERRY HEALEY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

RONALD PRESTON
SECRETARY

CHRISTINE C. FERGUSON
COMMISSIONER

ADVISORY

TO: MA Ambulance Services
EMS Training Institutions
EMT Instructor/Coordinators
EMCAB Members

FROM: Louise Goyette, Director

SUBJECT: On-Line CPR (BLS/ALCS) Training

DATE: May 18, 2004

The purpose of this Advisory is to clarify that while certain courses and programs may be offered on-line, the requirements for current training in basic life support cardiopulmonary resuscitation (BLS-CPR) for all levels of EMTs, and the requirement for current training in advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) for EMT-Paramedics are not achievable merely through completion of an on-line training course.

The standards for BLS-CPR and ACLS, as published in the "Standards and Guidelines for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Emergency Cardiac Care," require both didactic and practical skills training and evaluation. Only BLS-CPR and/or ACLS training certificates, issued by recognized training institutions, that include BOTH didactic and practical skills training and evaluation, are considered to be valid under current state EMS and/or first responder laws and regulations.

BLS-CPR and/or ACLS training certificates issued by the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or National Safety Council satisfy the legal requirements for EMTs and First Responders. In order to be considered valid under Massachusetts EMS and/or first responder laws and/or regulations, BLS-CPR and/or ACLS training certificates issued by other organizations must be issued only after completion of didactic and practical skills training and evaluation. Validity of such training certificates must be verified by obtaining a copy of the full course content outline and copies of the skill practice and evaluation tools.

Questions about the validity of either BLS-CPR or ACLS training certificates should be referred to the training unit at OEMS for evaluation of the organization that issued the training certificate and the course content material used by that organization.